

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens

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The BEGONIAN

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Peace-Plans for Plant Lovers

● There are so many plans in motion for the building of greenhouses and lathhouses—shady nooks, moss walls, fern grottos, Rex dens . . . conservatories, roof gardens, patios, rockeries and pools in shade, etc., an endless line-up of things to do to make home life more and more attractive, charming and satisfying.

It is the special request of this Editor, of each reader of this magazine, that everyone able to send in *leads* to such developments, please do so without delay so that we can arrange to ask the builder of improvements to take "before" and "after" pictures, both in black and white as well as in color. We shall be most happy to present this type of article so that with the illustrations others may be inspired to go forth and do likewise, maybe even improve on the original scene. Pictures give a story more "tellingly" than

words at times, but if both are combined, then we can be of greater service to all our readers.

The colored pictures will be of inestimable value in the future in the making up of lectures with illustrations all over the country. Always a good idea to take duplicates in case of errors. Photography and gardening go hand in hand for so many things cannot wait until a photographer can be called in. Watch for that moment that is perfection and "snap" the opportunity for THE BEGONIAN.
The Editor

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Begonianites In Action

Bellflower Branch:

• The Bellflower Branch members are very proud of their president for winning a second and two first awards on her beautiful Rex begonias at the Huntington Beach Fair Show in August . . . besides The Grand Award on the entire display of rex begonias. The judges were warm in their praise of the excellence of the condition of the plants. This group meets so early in the month, that we announce the meeting place for two months now, in case THE BEGONIAN MUST be late again, which we hope will not be the case.

November 6th, at the home of Nathan Miller, 549 Nicholls Street, Bellflower, and in December, for the Christmas party at the Woman's Club House, 500 Oak Street, Bellflower.

Whittier Branch:

• The Whittier Branch was represented by a

large table full of specimen plants of B. Rex and ferns, all grown by Mr. and Mrs. Miller, pictured with Mr. Nelson in this issue.

Inglewood Branch:

• The Founders Night in Inglewood, Calif., October 11th, was a round-up of many of the fine old-timers who have had to be missing from the meetings for various reasons. It was very interesting to hear Mrs. Rodenburg again. The Sims were both present and Mrs. Sim identified all the plants on the sales tables. The Collection was a splendid one which gave her plenty of scope in demonstrating her ability of calling them by name.

Mr. and Mrs. Ferd Neels are seen too seldom, but they were present. Mr. Neels gave a short sketch of the American Begonia Society from its inception. All charter members wore green ribbons that they might be singled for special honor. *See next page*



BEGONIA EXPERTS at joint meeting of the Southern California Horticultural Institute and American Begonia Society, on August 6th, 1945, in Los Angeles, Calif. Left to right: Arthur E. Nelson, past-president of the A.B.S.; Mrs. Miller and Mr. Miller, shown with table of exceptionally nice rex begonias and maidenhair fern.

—Photo Courtesy L. A. Downtown Shopping News.

East Bay Branch:

• New officers of the East Bay Branch were elected at the September meeting. Dr. Fred Davis of Berkeley is now President; Mrs. Geo. G. Reed, of Richmond, Vice-President; Dick G. Goodnow, of Berkeley remains as Sec.-Treas., and Mr. H. L. Swager is the new National Representative.

At the September meeting Mrs. Reed demonstrated how to make Rex cuttings in sand and Mrs. Carleton told how to root them in water. The October meeting was held at the home of Mrs. I. D. Newcomb in Richmond. This group may hold future meetings in the Council Chambers of The Berkeley City Hall, but time and night will be advised later. All the members are working definitely on the

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BOB ANDERSON

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plans for the exhibit they will enter in the Oakland Spring Garden Show, the famous Spring Show that draws flower lovers from far and wide all over United States. This will be the first show since the beginning of the war.

Glendale Branch:

• Glendale, Calif., exhibitors at the Joint Meeting of the So. Calif. Horticultural Inst., and The American Begonia Society on August 6th., ult. Grateful appreciation is directed to them all for their share in the success of the occasion. All plants were particularly fine specimens.

Mesdames Rose Hoberg, 4 plants; Anna Marek, 8 plants; Lorenz, 1 plant; Grace Bayer, President of Glendale Branch, 6 plants; Korts, 4 plants, one the much talked of spathyphyllum; Frazier, 4, counting an especially lovely B. snowblush; Peacock, 5, with a beautiful B. rossi; Mullen, a very fine B. Marguerite, and a B. Nelly Bly; Sue McRae, Director, A. B. S., 6 plants, including an exceptionally nice Weltoniensis, and Harold Hart, President, A.B.S., a very fine collection of ferns.

California Heights Branch:

• The California Heights Branch also desires to give meeting data for two months ahead of time in case of involuntary tardiness in arrival of THE BEGONIAN. November 9th meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Jessie Jenkins, 3615 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, Calif., while the December 14th meeting will be at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Ailman, 4404 Greenbrier Road, Long Beach, Calif.

New England Branch

• The New England Branch of the American Begonia Society met at the Logee greenhouses, Danielson, Conn., on August 26th, an all-day picnic meeting. The following officers were elected: President, Prof. W. D. Holley, University of Conn. Storrs, Conn.; Vice-President, Mrs. William D. Nisbet, Brooklyn, Conn.; Secretary, Mrs. Norman Hedley, Stamford, Conn.; Treasurer, Mr. W. C. Atherton, 60 Chestnut St., Wakefield, Mass.

Prof. Holley was the speaker of the day, and described his work in developing double begonias, and producing seed from them.

At the close of his talk, the first two plants of two of his new crosses were auctioned off; a dark leaved seedling with double red flowers, named by vote of members present "Red holly," and a white flowered calla lily begonia with unusually handsome foliage.

Editors Note: The paper "Adventures in Improving Begonia semperflorens," by Prof. W. D. Holley, will be published shortly.



BEGONIA ARGENTEA GUTTATA, exhibited by Robert Bezones, member of the Inglewood Begonia Society, at the Dahlia Show of September in Inglewood, Calif. It has been grown outdoors, measures just over four feet through and is one yard tall, completely covering the large tub in which it is planted. One mass of flowers. Winner of several ribbons.
Photo by S/Sgt. W. L. Frost, Los Angeles, Calif.

CARE OF FIBROUS AND RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIAS

By MRS. CLARENCE E. MOORE San Diego, Calif.

• As always, Ella Marguerite Fewkes, of Montalvo Gardens, just packs them in when she talks in public. When she spoke in July to the San Diego Begonia Society, visitors came from Berkeley, La Jolla, La Mesa and other points. Here are a few points from her fund of knowledge. "The oak leaf mold (no pine needles) is best, but it is better mixed with bean straw at least six months in

advance so that with the great heat generated, both are made ready and available for fibrous and rhizomatous begonias, to absorb quickly. Apply as a mulch and never cultivate for the feeder roots are at the top of the earth. Cut old begonias down to the top of soil and fertilize on the surface.

If you have heat under the bench, pruning

(Continued on Page 206)

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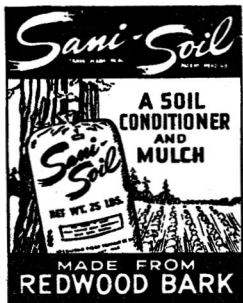
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Round Robin Club News

By FRANCES DOWNING,
No. Mason, Bowie, Texas

● During the winter months most of our gardening is of the arm-chair variety. With books, catalogs and a packet of Robin letters we are not gardening alone, we are sharing joys and woes together the while we plan our gardens of the coming season.

An evening spent with nine gardening friends plus the books and catalogues is a satisfying and valuable experience. Friendliness and a bit of laughter can always be found in a Robin letter—and always there is something to be learned.

It is a fine thing to learn that the hands of friendship and understanding grow stronger as the Robins make their rounds.

I would remind all members of the A.B.S. that these Round Robin clubs are not devoted to begonias alone. Fuchsias, impatiens, African violets, gloxinias, and many other shade plants, all are accepted heartily as subjects for these clubs.

I will be glad to hear from all shade plant enthusiasts and to start your clubs.

Care of Fibrous and Rhizomatous Begonias

(Continued from Page 205)

can be done in early spring. Use heat for rooting cuttings to get quick results. Take all of the leaves from the three-inch slips, for until roots grow, the leaves are not necessary and by the time the roots have started, new leaves will, start. The old leaves are a great burden to the new little plants of fibrous begonias.

Do not prune B. Templini or B. Jessie much, for if you do they may leave you. These two plants can be propagated from leaves, an uncommon trait among fibrous begonias, but leaf propagation is always possible with rhizomatous types, those prostrate, curly stemmed plants including the rex. Cover to the center of a leaf, or cut up bare stems in small pieces about three inches, and make them go to work.

When fibrous begonias get long and leggy with sterile stems, pinch out the tiny center at the top of the plant. This will not disfigure the plant, but will make it branch along the sides. You should do this before the plant gets too tall. Pinch back in spring and summer.

Mr. Jerabek told how to have poinsettias in bloom for Christmas. Take four-inch tips, plunge them in cold water at once and then in coarse cement user's sand. Start them in August and pot when the root system is well developed. Keep them warm.



Photo Courtesy San Diego, Calif., Journal

Right From Church To Gaze Wonderingly At Beauties Of Famous Garden

By MARIA WILKES, Los Angeles, Calif.

• Under the auspices of the San Diego Junior League an "Open Garden" was held at the Loma Portal home of Mrs. Roscoe E. Hazard, on Sunday, August 19th, 1945, from noon until five o'clock. Various committees composed of members of the Alfred D. Robinson Branch of the American Begonia Society assisted in the garden identifying shrubs, trees and plants for the visitors. Close to 1000 people paid a little less than a dollar (children under 16 admitted free) to see Mrs.

Hazard's tuberous begonias and otherwise beautiful garden.

During the afternoon a constant demonstration on corsage making was maintained, using several suit boxes full of glorious tuberous begonia blooms. The visitors were invited to choose the bloom desired, which was made up into a suitable corsage for a nominal charge of 50 cents. Mrs. Hazard donated a lovely tuberous begonia every half hour which was duly drawn for by the constantly moving crowd.

(Continued on Page 214)

HARDY ORCHIDS

By Pub. Chm. IRENE NANCE, of Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, Ventura, Calif.

• Walter Knecht, Ventura's well known and successful orchid grower, spoke on "Hardy Orchids". Members were interested to learn that the first orchids known to be grown away from their native habitat were products of seeds and plants brought by explorers to England.

Mr. Knecht feels that even the amateur can succeed in growing both the terrestrial or ground type and the epiphytal or air type in the lath house. The Cymbidium and Bletilla both of the former type lend themselves to this

environment. The epiphytal types, Odontoglossom, Oncidium and Laelia also thrive in such surroundings. While all of these require humidity, they must have good drainage.

If these orchids are planted in leaf-mold, Oregon green moss and Sanisoil (a commercial product of shredded red-wood) they do not have to have additional feeding.

Editor's Note: Mr. Knecht just received a request from the U. S. Department of Agriculture Bureau of Plant Industry, Principal Nematologist, for several copies of the June BEGONIAN with article on Pest Trouble With Gloxinias and Begonias.

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SUGGESTIONS

Branch Secretaries and Treasurers— Please Note

• Many members have no idea of their due date for sending in dues: If each Branch maintains a card system it is simple to send the members a reminder when the time is right for renewal of dues. Nearly all branches send a postcard reminder every month to advise the subject of program and this same postcard could be used to note thereon in a contrasting ink, the reminder to pay dues to the Branch Secretary or Treasurer.

If the member becomes delinquent, notify again by same method in manner not too direct but understandable. The Treasurer can then send the collections once a month to the National Fees Chairman after each meeting.

This form of collecting dues is much more satisfactory to all concerned for many obvious reasons. When a member does not answer two postcards . . . how nice it would be if one of the officers would call on the member to ascertain the well-being of the member and to discuss the plants of the day. A sunshine Chairman is not a bad idea in Begonia Societies, it works beautifully in the regular garden clubs. Are there some specially fine ideas your branch practices that you think make for better public relations within your group? Please let the Editor have a note on it for THE BEGONIAN.

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November in the Window Garden

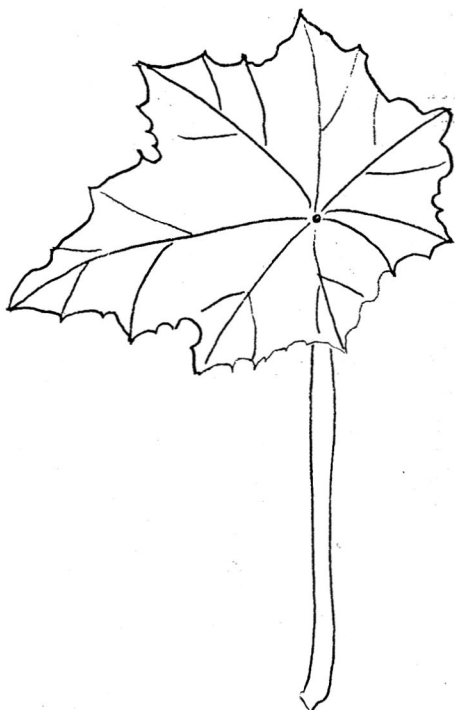
By BESSIE R. BUXTON, Peabody, Mass.

• The short days are upon us now. By four o'clock the sun is far down the western sky and there is little warmth in it. The morning sun, too, lacks warmth. About four hours in mid-day, is the most the begonias get now. Special plants that I am trying to get well started before the winter's cold sets in are set on a table under a reading lamp during the evening, and growth is really stimulated. This should be done only with young plants or with those which bloom naturally in winter, for the Fall is natural resting period for most begonias in New England.

Begonias react very differently in different parts of the country and plants which bloom freely for one person refuse to bloom at all for others. Why, people ask. That is hard to answer. Soil, water, climate and care vary greatly. If your begonias do not thrive, change your growing conditions. Climate, of course, cannot be changed, but you can change your soil mixture; you can change to using rain water, using less or more than you have been using. Give more fresh air in the middle of the day, but avoid drafts. Spray your plants oftener, daily if you can, using rain water as a fine mist over the plants. Remember that the sun must not touch the wet foliage, or sunscald, thin brown spots on the leaves will result. Sunscald is one of the worst enemies of begonias. Sometimes the sunlight coming through double windows will cause this injury. The thick, leathery leaved varieties, and haageana also, are very susceptible to this injury.

Green aphid often appear on begonias in the fall. Black Leaf 40 or Red Arrow may be used in the sprayer to get rid of them. The hairy varieties are less apt to be troubled with aphid than the smooth leaved kinds.

So far, few leaves have fallen. The spraying helps keep the leaves after the change from outdoor air to the house. If you started your cuttings in June, when they root quickly and well, the young plants get well established before being brought inside, by mid-September at the latest, growth is not checked and few leaves fall. The recumbent types, such as Feasti, Bunchi, the manicatas and others, do not drop their leaves as much as the fibrous types, but grow handsomer daily until their late winter or spring blooming season. If you cannot give much time to your plants, these recumbent types are the kind for you to grow, for they are always good looking even with a minimum of care.



Begonia Schulziana

Froncosa and urophylla are lovely now, with their clusters of long stemmed white blooms, thickly set with red hairs. Sutherlandi still has its soft yellow flowers, but will soon drop leaves and flowers for its long winter nap. Dichroa began blooming last month, and will last another month or two, although a Connecticut friend tells me her plant bloomed for a full year. It is always a low grower semi-recumbent, and no other begonia has such brilliant, waxen orange flowers. It has been much used by hybridists, but so far none of its children have inherited its orange flowers. Diana (Dichroa x Annie Laurie) has its spotted leaves and long period of bloom, but the rose-red flowers do not compare with dichroa's orange glory.

Mrs. W. S. Kimball (B. malabarica var. dipetala?) has made good growth this past summer and I look forward to Christmas blooms. Last year it began to bloom just before Christmas and for five months was in full bloom. I keep it in a South window until the buds begin to show, then change it to a Northeast window where it gets only morning sun. The drooping clusters of pale pink flowers are very decorative.

(Continued on Page 212)

Dichroa Crosses of Rosecroft

By ALICE M. CLARK, San Diego, Calif.

• When the species, *B. dichroa*, was introduced from Brazil in 1906, it brought a new note to the color scale of fibrous begonias—a high bright orange. Some time passed before it was used for hybridizing, probably due to the difficulty of growing it properly and to the lateness of its blooming season, which is in the fall.

K. Fotsch says in *Die Begonien*: “—it seems about to disappear without leaving any hybrids.” He evidently did not know of the three *Dichroa* crosses made by Chas. Chevalier and listed in his book, *Les Begonias*. They are fully described and one bearing his name is illustrated. In *THE BEGONIAN* for April, 1941, on p. 58 Rudolf Ziesenhenné translated the accounts of the Belgian hybrids and also gave a splendid botanical description, with photograph, of *B. dichroa*, Sprague, which should be reviewed again. One of M. Chevalier's crosses was made in 1917, the other two in 1924. Only one had vermilion-red flowers, the others were a wild-rose shade.

When the Robinsons at Rosecroft, Pt. Loma, decided to strive for a seedling of *B. dichroa* that would stand erect and bear clusters of orange flowers, they did not reach their goal but, on the way, they achieved such floriferous seedlings that they were snapped up by the public before they could be sifted down to a few named varieties. This has given rise to some confusion so, with Annie Robinson's permission and cooperation, I am attempting to separate them into three main classes with the following official names: *Di-anna*, *Di-erne* and *Di-shasta*. I hope to draw and describe them clearly enough so you can decide to what group your variety belongs.

Quoting the Robinson records, we find:

“In 1937, using *Dichroa* as the male seed parent, we made a cross with *Annie Laurie*; a *Picta rosea* seedling of free flowering habit, small leaves and a medium upright growth.

The seedlings came fairly uniform; medium height, bushy, very free flowering and brilliant red in color. They were not what we were after but they attracted the trade and we sold 200 or more, unnamed, except for one variety which we called ‘*Dianna*.’

In 1939, a cross made with a *Rubra* seedling, called ‘*Erna*’, proved fertile and produced a batch of seedlings of more interest. In about 100 seedlings, 18 were orange colored, like *Dichroa*, but retained the procumbent habit. Of these, three were a lighter orange

than *Dichroa* and even more procumbent. Two rather small growers with orange-red flowers had small wavy leaves. Most of them were darker-leaved than *Dichroa*, with lake under; medium habit of growth, branching, free flowering; color from orange-red to rose. These flowered later than the *Annie Laurie* crosses, had larger clusters of bloom and made larger plants.”

The plant I have chosen to draw is ‘*Di-anna*.’ There will always be slight variations of size and color among different specimens of this group but my picture shows the average growth, flowering habit and relative size of leaves. It is even more compact than its parent, *Annie Laurie*, which was an improvement in this respect on *picta rosea*. My plant is only 18 inches high in a pot, but is three feet in the ground. There are many more canes than I have shown. They are always slender, a smooth gray on the old wood, brown and green flecked with white on the newer stems. The nodes are far apart when the plant is thriving and often closer than half an inch when slowed up. There are only a few branches and the tips are inclined.

The leaves have $\frac{1}{2}$ inch stems of light green, sometimes red-tinted. As the new canes come up from the bottom the leaves are heavy with silver spots, but the top growth is all plain. They are a shining medium green on the upper surface, lighter, with a faint flush below which deepens with more sun and warmth. The main rib above and all the veins beneath are raised. My largest leaf is 6 inches long with the well known “wing” at the top, fully ruffled and tapered to a point. It is not as dark as well-grown *Dichroa* and is narrower in proportion to its length.

The floral sheath is light and pointed and soon drops off. The peduncle is reddish, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches to where it branches. The male flowers are a heart-shaped locket of 2 petals, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch across, with 2 tiny narrow ones inside protecting a wide center of golden stamen. These blooms come first in small clusters of 6 to 10, each hooded by 2 small transparent bracts from which the female blooms emerge later. The color of both types of flowers and their pedicels is a gay orange-red.

The male blooms fall early and the females develop rapidly into large showy clusters of 20 flowers, more or less. Each is capped by 2 keel-shaped bracts of the same

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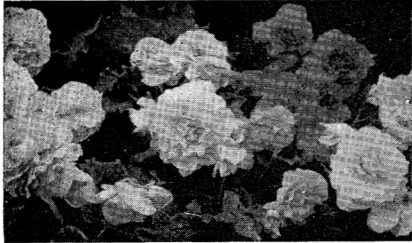
B. x DI-ANNA

DICHROA CROSSES

(Continued from Page 210)

bright color that persist even on the dried seed-pods. The ovary is very conspicuous, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long and wide, marked with a light green streak at each center line between the 3 wings,

(Continued on Page 216)



THE LARGEST ASSORTMENT
AND FINEST NEW DEVELOPMENTS
OF THE
PACIFIC STRAIN
OF
TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

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- ★ Keeps soils mellow.
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**Palco Pete's
MULCH**

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FREE
SAMPLE

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100 Bush St., San Francisco, Cal.

NOVEMBER WINDOW GARDEN

(Continued from Page 209)

B. schulziana was found in Haiti in 1930. It is rhizomatous, but miniature in size, the leaves shaped somewhat like *verschaffeltiana*. The green rhizome has small, hard white dots between the close-set leaf stems. It is just now coming into bloom, five stalks of pale pink flowers on red stems, the whole plant minutely tomentose. After blooming, its resting period will begin. It attends nicely to its own propagation, breaking up into little rooted rhizomes all ready for potting.

Begonias that will bloom this winter may now be given some fertilizer. *Electra* is a good, quick acting kind, but I like best to use liquid manure, the color of weak tea. Water the plant first with rain water, then with the fertilizer. Never use fertilizer on dry soil or on a plant that is resting.

Do not expect too much of your begonias at this time. Day by day the light and warmth of the sun lessens, and the plants feel it. If you can keep them green and free from pests, be content and wait for the sun to turn northward again in February. Fortunately for our gardens, a few kinds bloom in spite of winter weather. Rows of double *semperflorens* keep my windows cheerful now. The double white is the strongest grower, and is full of flowers like miniature snow balls. The blush pink is the weakest and will not bloom freely until spring. The double red is a very free bloomer and a good grower. If you keep the air in your home over 50 degrees humidity and under 70 degrees heat, the flower balls will be much larger. The drier the air, the smaller the flowers will be.

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Back Bulbs

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The Soil Colloids As Related To Soil Fertility

By W. C. DRUMMOND, Hollywood, Calif.

• Our knowledge of the relationship of the soil to the soil fertility has greatly increased in recent years. Not too long ago we believed that the nutrient solutions or substances were held by the soil particles, probably by molecular attraction. Today we have a more complete viewpoint, backed by scientific research. Scientists have attacked soil nutrition with perseverance. From this advanced knowledge the soil colloid holds the key position.

It should be explained that the soil colloids comprise that part of the clay of the soil which is small enough to stay in suspension once they are added to a dispersion medium such as water. In such soils as decomposed granite and sandy soils the percentage of soil colloids is small by comparison, especially with adobe or clay soils, such as decomposed granite and sand are low in fertility. Certainly some of the plant foods applied to the soil are absorbed by the plants, some by the soil bacteria, some escapes by leaching, and some are adsorbed by the soil colloids and the very fine particles of clay. All this has to do with plant nutrition and deficiencies.

In time gone by it was always a question in my mind why the soluble plant foods applied to the soil did not continue to go deeper into the soil until they were completely out of reach of the plant roots.

They do these very things in too open, loose or porous a soil as sand and decomposed granite. This leaching takes place in part in any open soil by washing with too much water, as rain, or irrigation water.

Another question was, why were some soils classed as naturally richer than others. The answer to both questions, in part, are soil colloids.

We shall examine the soil colloids in the light of present day knowledge. Certainly many things, in a short paper of this kind, must be omitted. It has been the endeavor to make the explanation of this all important technical subject as simple as possible, yet there will be many new and strange terms used. Some knowledge of chemistry would be desirable.

Colloidal Clay

One of the distinguishing features of clay soil is the fineness of the particles. The size of these vary around .0002 of an inch or .002 microns. Other characteristic properties of clay are: soft and sticky when wet, that is, it is cohesive. It has a greasy feel and can be moulded into shapes and forms, it is plastic, it gets extremely hard when dry and is difficult to work when either wet or dry. Clay is quite heavy due to the compactness of it. It is considered late for spring planting and is colder than sandy soil. Calcium is of benefit to clay because it helps flocculation. While nitrate of soda causes a deflocculation causing the soil to become sticky and makes it impervious to water, interfering with drainage. Coarse organic matter helps clay while coarse organic matter is a detriment to sandy soil, admitting too much air. In adding calcium to clay use Land Plaster (gypsum) in California. In the Eastern United States use hydrated lime. Clay soils are divided into silicate clay with some aluminum in the temperate regions of the world; while in the tropics iron and aluminum hydrates and oxides predominate. Due to the soil colloids, colloidal clay expands very much when wet, and shrinks equally when dry, causing great cracks in the soil.

Clay Content of Different Soils

Very sandy soil contains about .5 to 3% clay.

Ordinary sandy lands, 3 to 10% clay.

Sandy loams, 10 to 15% clay.

Clay loams, 15 to 25% clay.

Clay soils, 25 to 35% clay.

Heavy soil, 35 to 45% and over, clay.

On page 48 of Firman Bear's book, *Soils and Fertilizers, 1942*, we find the following soil analysis in percentage of soil, not colloids:

In studying the analysis below, one thing stands out plainly. Adobe is rich in calcium, magnesium and iron. Whereas the eastern humid regions are low in calcium and magnesium which must be added to the soil. The following analysis is from page 185 of

(Continued on Page 214)

Where Found	Depth	SiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	Fe ₂ O ₃	MgO	CaO	Na ₂ O	K ₂ O
Norfolk Sand, So. Carolina	8 in.	94.81	1.42	0.60	0.01	0.19	0.12	0.08
Miami Silty Clay Loam, Indiana	10 in.	77.79	9.75	2.68	0.62	0.61	1.09	2.18
Stockton Clay Adobe, Calif.	38 in.	63.52	14.34	7.98	1.81	2.34	1.68	0.78

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By WM. RUSSEL T. BAILEY
San Diego, Calif.

Q. We cannot buy new pots here at present. How can I keep my old ones looking nice? Is shellac successful?

From Mrs. H. W. M., San Francisco, Calif.

A. The only thing I can recommend is to keep washing them. Shellac closes the pores in the pot and makes it like a glazed pot. Some people can raise begonias in glazed pots (or tin cans, which are similar in that they are not porous, either), but I have no success with them.

Q. To decompose manure, should it be dampened?

From T. S., Hollywood, Calif.

A. Just moist. Water dissolves the fertilizing elements in the manure and washes them out. See answer to Mrs. C. E. F., Paradise, Calif., later.

Q. What can I do about the slow growth of one of my seedlings?

From Mrs. A. L. C., Baton Rouge, La.

A. Nothing if the soil is in good condition. Some plants just have slow growth as one of their habits.

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Wedgewood Iris and mixed.....	.75
Sparaxis60
Oxalis49
Mixed Daffodils	1.25
King Alfred	1.98

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TW. 1564 Los Angeles 44, Calif.

RIGHT FROM CHURCH TO GAZE

(Continued from Page 207)

The money received from this fine day's activities will be used to remodel the playroom of the Children's Convalescent Home, one of the Civic Institutions to which the Junior League contributes.

Not only is this a delightful manner in which to share the beauty of her garden and the many hundreds of tuberous begonias but a most commendable way in which to give for the fourth year, of themselves on the part of Mrs. Hazard, her daughters, and by all those devoted to an altruistic cause through weeks of effort and preparation that the occasion might be an unqualified success for all.

Both the crowd of visitors and the tireless hostesses evidently deemed it a privilege to give, each in his or her way, in order to meet the needs of the worthy object.

A boy or girl scout eagerly seizes an opportunity to do a daily good deed—apparently so do many adults, and who can tell which has the greater satisfaction at the end of the day, the giver or the recipient?

Through the courtesy of The San Diego Journal we present the above picture of Mrs. Hazard proudly displaying one of her colorful and exquisite tuberous begonias. Her two daughters, Mrs. George Wick and Mrs. William Betts are pictured in the lathhouse. In the top righthand corner, Miss Charlotte Taylor of the Junior League is prepared for the long line of visitors. At her shoulder is displayed one of the large begonia paintings specially made for The Begonian every month by our own Alice M. Clark, (see March 1944 Begonian). In this way, and thru her accompanying articles, Mrs. Clark is contributing to the greater understanding and knowledge as well as deeper love of the world's finest begonias. It is too bad that we have not been able to reproduce these paintings in color, but since many of the originals are done in color, we hope we may look forward to a folio in bookform by Mrs. Clark in the not too distant future.

SOIL COLLOIDS

(Continued from Page 213)

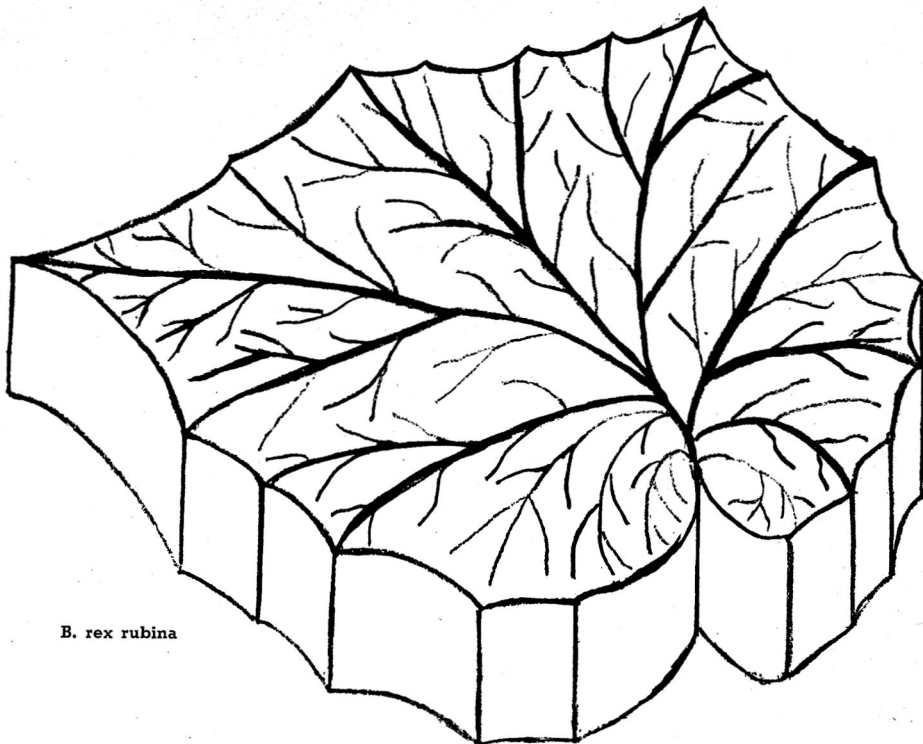
the same book. In this analysis the same soils are used, the number of pounds of nutrients in each 2,000,000 pounds of soil are stated.

Norfolk Sand,	CaO	MgO	K ₂ O
S. C.	3,800	200	1,600

Stockton Adobe,			
Calif.	46,800	36,000	15,600

This analysis was not complete, it does show, however, the large amount of calcium, magnesium and potassium present in California adobe and why it is called rich even though it is hard to work.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



B. rex rubina

Description: Gavel carved out and colored in metallic silver, green and bronze, as presented to President Harold Hart on September 16th, 1945, by J. Stanley Robson, Los Angeles, Calif.

MAGIC WITH CHEMICALS

By A. GOLDHAAR, Hollywood, Calif.

● The pooling of all the scientific resources in the world during wartime resulted in discoveries which not only revolutionized warfare, but which will affect living conditions in peace time and change the shape of the world.

Great strides have been made in the field of chemistry and plant physiology and, though today it is only in its initial phases of scientific development, it may well change our agricultural aspects. One of the most interesting discoveries in this field are organic chemicals which are called plant hormones, due to their physiological activity on plants. The experimental work on these products was done by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The most interesting and successful among these organic compounds is 2, 4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2, 4-D), a true plant hormone.

When applied in minute quantities, in a solution of 1:10000, it promotes growth of leaves, roots, and flowers. Sprayed on orchard trees and coffee bushes, it prevents the drop-

ping of fruit in preharvest time, enabling the farmer to harvest a full crop.

Its most amazing property is its devastating effect on the deep-rooted perennial weeds when used in concentrations of 1:500. Large scale tests were made on poison ivy, poison oak, Jap honeysuckle, bindweed, narrow-leaf pliantain, dandelion, and many other similar deep-rooted perennials. Weed destruction, leaf and root, was complete. It stimulates plant growth in one section of the plant and retards it in another until the plant withers and dies—root, branch, and stem.

In order for 2, 4-D to be most effective, weeds must be in an active stage of growth, and the temperature must be 70 degrees or above. Under these conditions, plant tissues will absorb the chemical as a nutrient and carry it throughout the plant down to the root tips.

D-WEED is a concentrated aqueous solution of 2, 4-D, which is readily diluted with cold water and is now available for consumer use.

The NEW Weed-Killer

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Collection of all three for 55c postpaid

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DICHROA CROSSES

(Continued from Page 212)

which grow deeper in color from red to brown. The petals below, when in bud, hang like a red heart from the seed parachute. There are 4 or 5 even petals around 3 pair of twisted stigma. The seed-pods ripen beautifully, emitting quantities of tiny orange seed from the upper slots of their fertile shakers.

The young plant of Di-erna that I have is only 8 inches high. It has medium green leaves all heavily shot with silver. They have a wider swelling near the tip and are less wavy, all of which may change as they grow older. The flower clusters are not as large as Di-anna and hold some male bloom along with the female. The red is more orange and the leaves flushed underneath.

In general, there are several features that distinguish these two Rosecroft Dichroa seedling groups from other cane types: they are of medium height, bushy, with slender tip-tilted stems.

The leaves are medium green, spotted on young growth at the base, wavy and flushed on the back and always with the heavy elevated mid-rib, so suggestive of Dichroa.

They are almost ever-blooming, with heavy flower clusters of near-orange color.

The three wings of the ovary are rounded and even, the outside curve of each is cupped over and becomes puckered as it ages, a decided characteristic of Dichroa.

If you have a variety of either of these seedlings you possess a begonia of distinctive ornamental value bearing the good old hallmark of Rosecroft.

I will picture and describe the tall Di-shasta sister at a later time.

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and
SILVER FISH

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Pasadena (2) California

Concerning Leafmold

By PHILIP M. POST, Paxton, Mass.

• I find there is a wide difference in the conceptions of some people here in the East about just what is leafmold, and I wonder if this matter doesn't need a little clarification.

As it is found in nature, it is the layer just under the dry leaves, and is composed largely of perfectly obvious particles of leaves in various stages of decomposition. It may, and quite likely does contain small or large quantities of the mycelium of the fungi of decay. This is not harmful to growing plants, and should not alarm the gatherer of leafmold.

Here in New England, where I live, it should be easily available to those within walking distance of a patch of woods. Several years' supply can be brought home in sacks in one trip by the urban dweller. The hazards are the usual ones connected with trespass in the country.

Oaks yield the best product for begonias, Leafmold from elms, maples, beeches, hickories, and conifers should be avoided. The larger and closer the trees, the deeper the layer under them will be, but there is almost always some, unless the land has recently been burned over. The presence of undergrowth, or a minority of trees of other sorts is no drawback.

Sticks, roots, bark, and woodland plants are always a part of the leafmold I bring home.

Immediately under the leafmold proper is humus, if the woods are old enough, the much more decayed organic matter, usually dark brown or black in color, and a mass of fine feeding roots of trees and undergrowth. I bring this along with the leafmold, and I suspect it contains much more available plant food. I am not chemically scientific about this. I base my conclusions on results. I believe that a large part of the humus I am using is formed of the leaves of chestnut trees, now dead for more than a quarter of a century. The woods here are still full of their stumps and fallen trunks. As chestnuts were heavy bearers of tannic acid, such humus may be additionally desirable.

Both leafmold and humus are best scraped up into piles with a sharp hoe, after the dry leaves and fallen branches have been raked or brushed off a considerable area. From its rough appearance in a crude state, it is surprising how small a portion cannot be worked through a half-inch sieve.

This leafmold-humus combination comprises about a third of the soil-mixtures I use for all begonias in all stages.

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A Merry — Merry Christmas To Everyone

By MARY ELLEN CLARK, Membership Fees
Chairman, Los Angeles, Calif.

● My address is on the front page. I mean just what I say in the title of this note. I wish you a very, very merry Christmas. If you would like me to have one at all—WILL YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE—by sending me your DUES NOW? Most of our members

have their membership due about December and January . . . the two worst months of the year for extra work in any family. If the pressure can be relieved by sending your dues to your local secretary right away, and she can send them to me right after your next meeting, that will make it possible for me to enjoy the holidays with you. If you do not belong to any Branch, then please send your dues directly to me.

If, at any time, you do not receive your BEGONIAN, after a reasonable wait, please advise me so that a check can be made and you do not have to lose any of your copies of OUR magazine.

I shall be most happy to enter a subscription for any of your friends with a special Christmas greeting from you. That will be a delightful manner for you to be remembered twelve times a year—very definitely.

Eastern Home of RARE BEGONIAS	
Begonia Vitamins — A complete plant food — 5 lbs.....	\$2.00
6 RARE Begonias (our selection)....	3.50
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STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933

Of The Begonian, published monthly at Los Angeles, California, for October, 1945

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. } ss.

Before me, a Notary in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Maria Wilkes, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is the Editor and Business Manager of The Begonian and that the following is, to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher—The American Begonia Society, 1618½ W. 52nd Street, Los Angeles 37, Calif.

Editor—Maria Wilkes, 158 So. Oxford Ave., Los Angeles 4, Calif.

Managing Editor—Maria Wilkes, 158 So. Oxford Ave., Los Angeles 4, Calif.

Business Manager—Maria Wilkes, 158 So. Oxford Ave., Los Angeles 4, Calif.

2. That the owner is (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

The Begonian, 1618½ W. 52nd Street, Los Angeles 37, Calif.

Harold W. Hart, President, 1314 Dorothy Drive, Glendale, Calif.

Arthur E. Nelson, Past President, 506 Le Roy Ave., Arcadia, Calif.

Mrs. A. N. Hartwell, Corresponding Secretary, 1719 Alamitos Ave., Monrovia, Calif.

Murray Hawkins, Treasurer, 609 So. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 14, Calif.

George Lawrence, President-Elect, 447 No. Hidalgo Ave., Alhambra, Calif.

Mrs. Helen K. Krauss, Director, Clayton M. Kelly Research and Nomenclature Departments, 405 Cotswold Lane, Wynnewood, Pa.

Maria Wilkes, Editor and Business Manager, 158 So. Oxford Ave., Los Angeles 4, Calif.

Bessie R. Buxton, Co-Editor, 114 Central St., Peabody, Mass.

Mrs. Mary Ellen Clark, Membership Fees Chairman, 1618½ W. 52nd St., Los Angeles 37,

Mrs. W. C. Drummond, Public Relations Chairman, North Kings Road, Los Angeles, Calif.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholders or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stocks, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is..... (This information is required from daily publications only.)

MARIA WILKES, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of September, 1945.

(My commission expires February 7, 1949.)

CORA R. BRAMON,

Meeting Dates and Speakers

It would be much appreciated if the Secretaries of the Branches would send meeting data to reach the Editor **NOT LATER THAN THE TENTH OF THE MONTH.**

The November American Begonia Society Board Meetings will take place in the Los Angeles Public Children's Library Room, Grand Street Entrance, Monday, November 26th, at 7:30 p.m.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, Nov. 1st

College Hall, Santa Ana J. C. 917 N. Maine St.
Santa Ana, Calif.

Mrs. K. D. Burdick, Sec.-Treas., Rt. 3, Box 355,
Santa Ana, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, Nov. 6th, 7:30 p.m.

Home of Nathan Miller, 549 Nicholls St.,
Bellflower.

Mrs. Ardel Radle, Secretary
920 Flower St., Bellflower, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, Nov. 6th 7:30 p.m.

American Legion Hall
North Carolina St., Ventura, Calif.

Mrs. Wm. Smith, Sec.-Treas.
Ventura, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, Nov. 7th, 7:45 p.m.

Social Hall, Calvary Methodist Church
c/o 19th and Judah St., San Francisco, Calif.

Mrs. Theresa Ferrero, Secretary
2183 - 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Monday, Nov. 8th, 7:30 p.m.

Woman's Club House, 325 N. Hillcrest, Inglewood

Mrs. Fred Witman, Secretary
3856 W. 27th St., Los Angeles 16, Calif.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, Nov. 8th, 7:30 p.m.

Rosalyn Duval, Secretary
Los Angeles 26, Calif.

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

Friday, Nov. 9th, 7:30 p.m.

Home of Mrs. Jessie Jenkins,
3615 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach

Mrs. Merle H. Penrose, Sec.-Treas.
4142 Walnut Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH

Monday, Nov. 12th, 8 p.m.

La Mesa Grammar School
La Mesa, San Diego Co., Calif.,

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Joseph Christofferson

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, Nov. 12th, 7:30 p.m.

42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.

Mrs. Jean Stocklasa, Secretary
5505 Olive Ave., Long Beach

WHITTIER BRANCH

Monday, Nov. 12th, 7:30 p.m.

Jonathan Bailey School, Room 19
Comstock Ave. & Hadley Street, Whittier, Calif.

Mrs. Madeline Hall, Sec.-Treas.
509 So. Friends Ave., Whittier, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, Nov. 12th, 6:30 p.m.

Pasadena Public Library

Lester F. Harrell, Sec.-Treas.
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, Nov. 13th, 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Curt Smith, Sec.-Treas.
3784 Central Ave., Riverside, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Irregular Meetings

Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Treasurer
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Sunday, Nov. 18th (Evening?)

Council Chambers, The Berkeley City Hall

Mrs. Ruth Utter, Secretary
155 Ardmore Rd., Berkeley 8, Calif.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, Nov. 19th

Tillie Genter, Sec.-Treas.
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Wednesday, Nov. 21st, 7:30 p.m.

Colonial Hall, Tenth & Locust Ave.

Mary Hotaling, Sec.-Treas.
324A Temple Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, Nov. 23rd, 8:00 p.m.

American Legion Hall
720 N. First Ave., Arcadia, Calif.

Mrs. W. H. Corbett, Secretary
2017 S. Fourth Street, Alhambra, Calif.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

W. C. Atherton, Treasurer
60 Chestnut St., Wakefield, Mass.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, Nov. 26th

Hard of Hearing Hall
3843 Herbert Ave., San Diego, Calif.

Mrs. A. P. Carlton, Sec.-Treas.
624 W. Arroyo Dr., San Diego, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, Nov. 27th

Mrs. W. E. Jones, Sec., Willow Grove, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, Nov. 27th, 8:00 p.m.

Mrs. Helen Grigsby, Secretary
958 E. Mountain, Glendale 7, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Wednesday, Nov. 28th, 7:30 p.m.

Hall, Point Loma Community Church
Udal Street at Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, Calif.

Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secretary.
2838 Chatsworth Blvd., San Diego, Calif.

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